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TALES OF

JAN.
1971
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FEATURING:

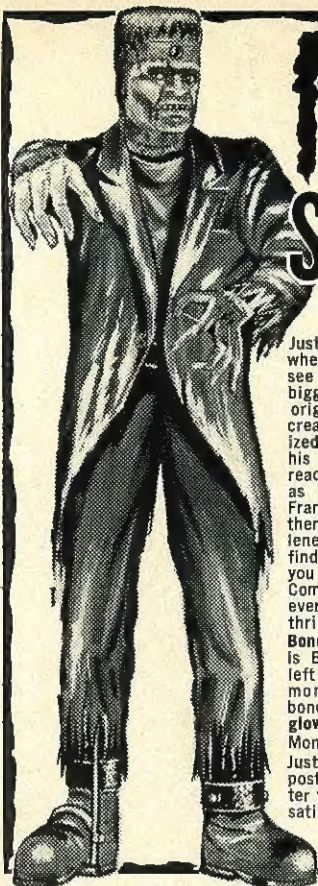
THE **SHOCKING**
HORROR OF
THE SPIDER

THE **CHILLING**
TERROR OF THE
VOODOO WITCH!

THE **STRANGE**
FEAR IN
DEADMAN'S DUEL!

PLUS OTHER
UNUSUAL
VOODOO
TALES





MONSTER

S-I-Z-E MONSTERS

7 FEET TALL

In Authentic Colors With GLOW in the DARK EYES

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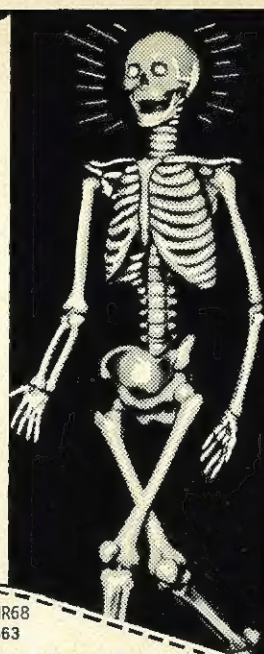
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Honor House dept. 472MR68
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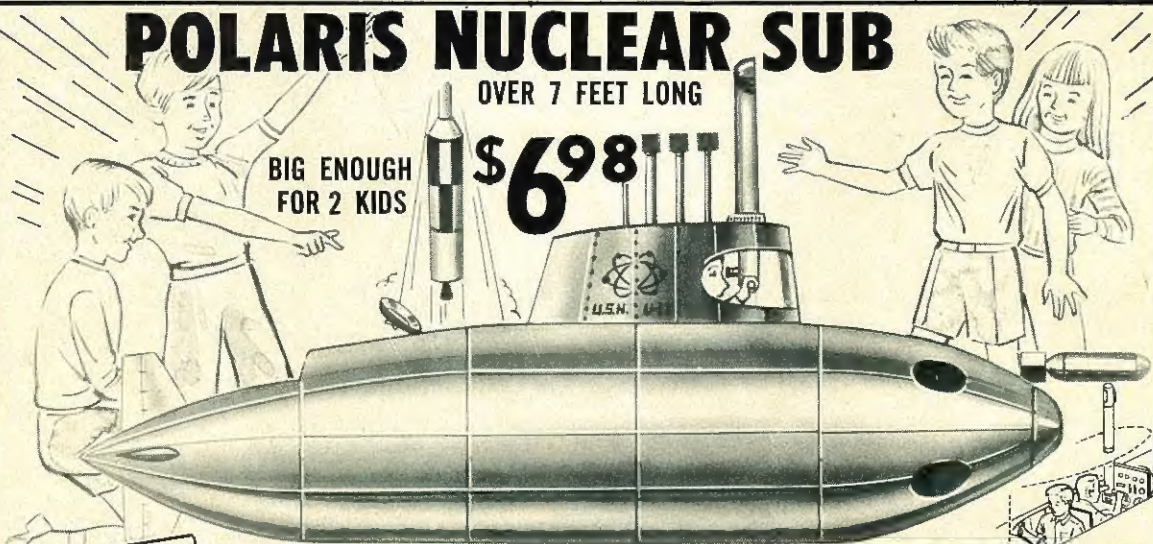
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BIG ENOUGH FOR 2 KIDS

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TALES OF VOODOO

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CARL BURGOS, Editor IRVING FASS, Art Director
EZRA JACKSON, Art Editor

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FROM THE DARKEST JUNGLE OF HAITI TO EARLY AMERICAN SALEM CAME THE TERRIFYING CHANT OF WITCHCRAFT! THE TOWNSPEOPLE WERE HYSTERICAL FROM FEAR AND TERROR!

THE WOODOO Witch



OUR STORY OPENS TWO CENTURIES AGO IN A HAITIAN JUNGLE, WHERE A YOUNG GIRL OVERHEARS HER OWN DOOM...

... AND SO, TO END THE TRIBAL DISEASE, TITUBA WILL BE SACRIFICED TO THE GODS!

OH, NO-- NO--



I'M TOO YOUNG TO DIE! I'VE GOT TO GET AWAY!



IT WAS THUS THAT CAPTAIN EDWARD HARRIS CAME TO MEET THE HAITIAN GIRL, AND HEARD HER STORY OF THE SACRIFICE!

DON'T WORRY, TITUBA! I'LL GET YOU OUT OF HERE!

THANK YOU, MASTER!



AND SO, FROM HAITI TITUBA ACCOMPANIED THE AMERICAN TO HIS HOME IN SALEM MASSACHUSETTS!

... YOU WILL TAKE CARE OF MY CHILDREN!

I--LIKE--CHILDREN, CAPTAIN, HARRIS!



THE HARRIS CHILDREN TOOK TO TITUBA AT ONCE!

PLEASE, TITUBA-- TELL US MORE!

"... THE GOD OF OUR TRIBE IS THE VOLCANO! EVERY YEAR A YOUNG GIRL IS SACRIFICED TO HIM!"



CAPTAIN HARRIS HAD FORBIDDEN TITUBA TO TELL THE CHILDREN HER FRIGHTENING STORIES...

YOU MUST NEVER TELL ANYONE, ABOUT THE STORIES I'M TELLING YOU!

WE PROMISE, TITUBA!



THE TOWNSPEOPLE OF SALEM WERE QUICK TO LEAP TO CONCLUSIONS AT THE WORD "WITCH"...

MARY HARRIS, HER IMAGINATION INFLAMED BY TITUBA'S TALES, POINTS AN ACCUSING FINGER...

HATTIE McCALLUM IS A WITCH! I SAW HER HEX MR. ALLAN'S HORSE!

NO, I'M JUST AN OLD WOMAN!



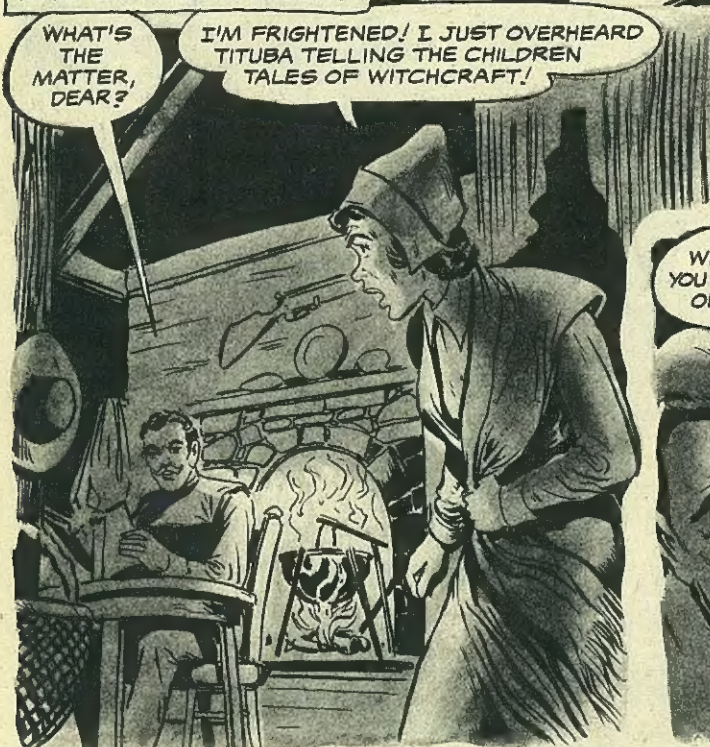
WITCH! WITCH!



A WAVE OF INEXPLICABLE DEATHS BEGAN TO OCCUR IN SALEM... AND AT EVERY DEATH, A NEW "WITCH" WAS SINGLED OUT!



SOON EVERYONE WAS CONVINCED THAT THERE WAS A MASTER-WITCH IN SALEM!



KILLING THE "WITCHES" DIDN'T STOP THE TOWNS-PEOPLE'S FEARS...



THE HARRIS' TOLD THEIR FEARS TO THE TOWN GOVERNORS-- AND IT WAS DECIDED TO SEND TITUBA TO BOSTON TO STAND TRIAL!



THE TRIAL OF TITUBA WAS CONDUCTED SWIFTLY...



AMID JEERS OF THE CROWD,
TITUBA WAS HANGED...

NOW
YOU DIE,
WOMAN
OF THE
DEVIL!

LAUGH AND
GLOAT...
BUT YOU
SHALL ALL
PAY!



MINUTES LATER TITUBA
DANGLED LIFELESSLY AT
THE END OF THE ROPE...



THE GUARDS WERE JUST ABOUT TO PLACE THE
CORPSE INTO HER COFFIN WHEN THEY WERE
INTERRUPTED BY DR. FRANKLIN KENT!

BY ORDER OF THE MAGISTRATE
I HAVE GAINED PERMISSION TO
REMOVE THE HEART
FROM THIS BODY!



THE GUARDS WENT TO THE DOCTOR'S OFFICE
LATER...

WELCOME, GENTLEMEN!
AND BEHOLD THE HEART
OF A WITCH!

UGH!



TITUBA'S BODY WAS TAKEN TO SALEM AND BURIED...

IT'S ALL MY FAULT... IT WOULD HAVE BEEN
BETTER IF TITUBA HAD BEEN PUT TO
DEATH IN HAITI!



I WARNED HIM! AND NOW I WARN
ALL OF YOU! HEE, HEE, HEE...
YOU CAN'T KILL A WITCH!

FOR TWO DAYS SALEM ENJOYED PEACE AND
QUIET... BUT THEN, TERROR ONCE AGAIN
STRUCK...

I-IT'S JONATHAN,
HE'S DEAD!



I-IT'S TITUBA!
S-SHE'S ALIVE!



THE WORD SPREAD LIKE WILDFIRE...

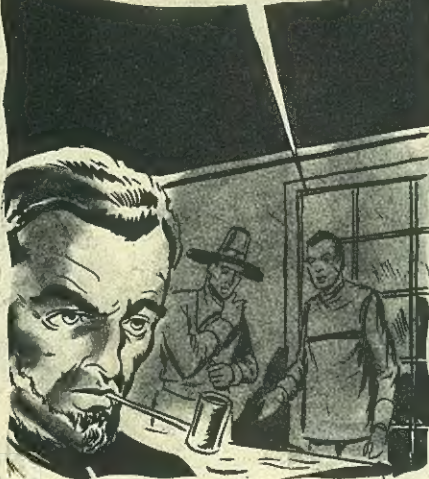
EDWARD, IS THERE NOTHING WE CAN DO?

I... I DON'T KNOW, S-SHE'S STRUCK THREE OF US ALREADY!



A MESSENGER WAS DISPATCHED TO BOSTON FOR HELP!

HOW CAN BOSTON HELP US? WE'VE TRIED EVERYTHING... OUR BULLETS HIT HER BUT SHE DOESN'T FALL...



IT WAS EARLY IN THE MORNING THAT THE HARRIS' HEARD A RATTLING AT THEIR DOOR...

MRS. HARRIS... I'VE COME FOR MY REVENGE!



AND AT THE SAME MOMENT IN BOSTON...

SIR! THE PEOPLE IN SALEM ARE HELPLESS... THERE'S NO WAY TO KILL HER!

YOU'RE WRONG, THERE'S A WAY... JUST ONE WAY!



BACK IN SALEM TITUBA STOOD TORMENTING THE HARRIS'...

PLEASE, TITUBA... HAVE MERCY! DON'T KILL US! WE NEVER MEANT YOU HARM...

BUT I MEAN YOU HARM, CAPTAIN HARRIS...



BUT AS THE WITCH STRETCHED OUT HER ARMS TO ENCOMPASS THE HARRIS'...

IT IS TIME NOW, I... AGHRRRR... M-MY HEART... I...



AND IN BOSTON...

AND NOW THE WITCH DIES!

BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND!



THE ONLY WAY TO KILL A WITCH, IS TO DRIVE A STAKE THROUGH HER HEART!



MEN DISAPPEAR EVERY DAY... AND THE MYSTERY OF THEIR DISAPPEARANCE OFTEN REMAINS UNSOLVED! BUT WHEN VARIOUS MEN... ALL IN THE SAME LINE OF BUSINESS DISAPPEAR, THE MYSTERY DEEPENS! FOR ONE BRIEF MOMENT, THE BLACK VEIL LIFTS... AND WE SHARE ONE MAN'S ADVENTURE IN TERROR!



STANLEY RAFFLE, SUCCESSFUL SILK MERCHANT, WAS NOT ONE TO BROOD ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TO A COMPETITOR...

WELL... I SEE GEORGE MCCRAY HAS DISAPPEARED! HIS FAMILY HAS BEEN KEEPING IT A SECRET, HOPING HE'D SHOW UP! HA HA! AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED HE CAN STAY LOST!

I-- I DON'T LIKE IT, STAN!



THERE WAS LIN SINGH, CARLOS PERALI, MARTIN MANNING... ALL MANUFACTURERS OR IMPORTERS OF SILK... JUST LIKE YOU!

DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME, CORNELIA! WITH THEM OUT OF THE WAY I'M GOING TO CORNER THE SILK MARKET!



SOON IT LOOKED AS THOUGH STANLEY MIGHT BE ON THE ROAD TO REALIZING HIS AMBITIONS...

BUT I CAN'T SELL YOU MY SILK AT THE PRICE YOU OFFER!

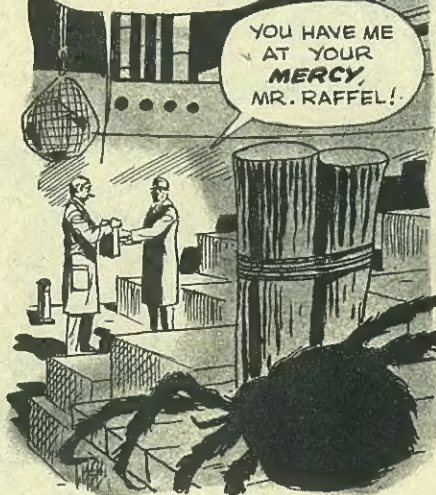
THAT'S YOUR PROBLEM, WU! SELL AT MY PRICE --- OR YOU'RE STUCK WITH IT!



THAT NIGHT A STRANGE AND FEARFUL CREATURE CROUCHED BEHIND THE PILINGS ON THE WHARF AS WU'S SILK CAME OFF THE BOAT...

YOU SHOULD HAVE TAKEN MY FIRST OFFER, WU! NOW YOU KNOW WHAT I SAID IS TRUE... I'M THE ONLY MERCHANT NOW BUYING. TAKE THIS --- OR NOTHING!

YOU HAVE ME AT YOUR MERCY, MR. RAFFEL!



I CAN ONLY WARN YOU, MY FRIEND! SUCH GREED AND DOUBLE-DEALING BRING ITS OWN REWARD!

KEEP YOUR WARNINGS TO YOURSELF, WU! I'M GETTING MY OWN REWARD! HA! HA!



YOU ARE A GENTLEMAN AFTER MY OWN HEART, MR. RAFFEL!

AND SO STANLEY RAFFEL GOT WU'S SILK AT HIS OWN LOW PRICE! HE KNEW IT WAS A STEAL, BUT HE DIDN'T CARE... AND WU'S WARNING MERELY AMUSED HIM. HE WAS DETERMINED TO MAKE ALL THE MONEY HE COULD BEFORE OTHER COMPETITORS HAD A CHANCE TO SPRING UP...



STANLEY BEGAN TO PUSH HIS OWN MILLS TO AN UNBELIEVABLE OUTPUT...

PUT ON TWO NEW SHIFTS! WE'RE THE ONLY PEOPLE NOW IMPORTING AND PRODUCING ENOUGH SILK TO COUNT!



THE GIGANTIC AND HORRIBLE SPIDER-MONSTER PEERED DOWN AT THE BUSY SCENE...

YOUR MACHINES AND YOUR EMPLOYEES DO A GOOD JOB, STANLEY RAFFEL! BUT I CAN STILL TEACH YOU A FEW TRICKS! HA HA!



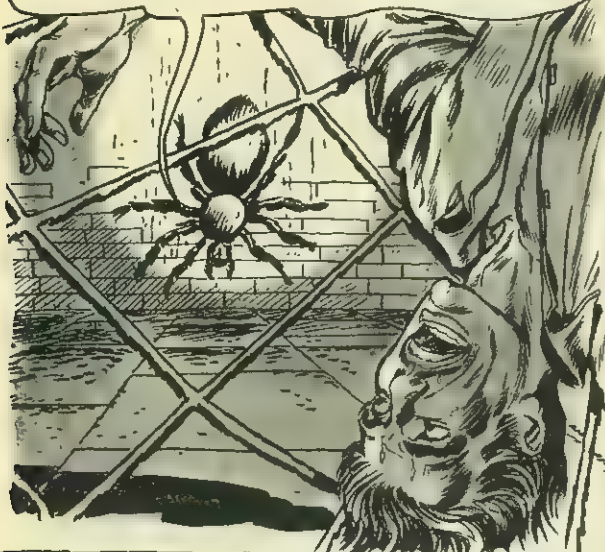
ON A NARROW, ALMOST INVISIBLE BUT STRONG SILK CABLE WHICH IT HAD THROWN FROM POLE TO POLE, ITS HAIRY LEGS PROPELLED IT ACROSS TOWN WITH INCREDIBLE SPEED...

MY OWN WORK AWAITS ME!



DOWN INTO A CELLAR IN AN OLD DESERTED WAREHOUSE NEAR THE DOCKS...

BUT TO WORK, ONE MUST HAVE NOURISHMENT... AND FORTUNATELY MY LARDER IS ALWAYS WELL SUPPLIED WITH FRESH MEAT — DRUGGED INTO HELPLESSNESS BY THE POISON OF MY **STING!**



ALAS, SOME VICTIMS MANAGE TO SHAKE OFF THE NUMBING POWER OF MY POISON, BUT **NONE** EVER ESCAPES! POOR GEORGE McCRAY... IT WAS A PITY YOU BECAME SO GREEDY, BUT THINK OF WHAT A USEFUL END YOU ARE SERVING!

NEEEEE!
NO! NO!



EST WAS THE NEXT MORNING THAT STANLEY HAD AN UNEXPECTED VISITOR! A BEAUTIFUL GIRL WITH A BUSINESS PROPOSITION...

I'M SO GLAD YOU DECIDED TO SEE ME, MR. RAFFEL. I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN SEEING... **THIS!**



IT'S BEAUTIFUL — **VERY** BEAUTIFUL SILK! VERY UNUSUAL WEAVE! SOMETHING LIKE GEORGE McCRAY WAS HANDLING A WHILE BACK! NO ONE KNEW WHERE IT CAME FROM!



I'M SURE NO ONE IN THIS COUNTRY MAKES IT. WHERE DID YOU GET IT?

THAT'S **MY** SECRET, MR. RAFFEL!



BUT I WILL TELL YOU THIS MUCH, MR. RAFFEL! I HAVE THOUSANDS OF YARDS... AND CAN GET AS MUCH AS I NEED! IT'S CHEAPER THAN ANYTHING YOU CAN MAKE OR BUY!

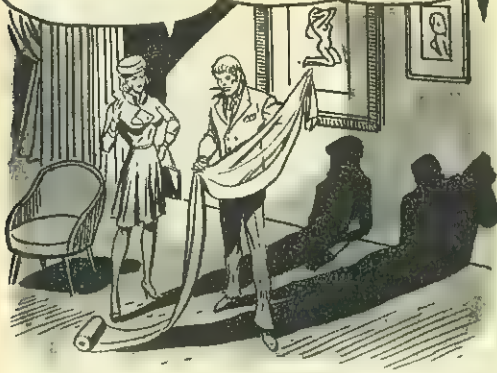


STANLEY KNEW THE SILK WAS FINER THAN ANY HE HAD EVER SEEN! HERE WAS SOME COMPETITION HE HAD NOT FORSEEN...

WHY DID YOU COME HERE? WHAT DO YOU WANT?



I HAVE THE SILK SOURCE... **YOU** HAVE THE MONEY AND THE MARKETS! I NEED SOMEONE TO DISPOSE OF THE SILK FOR ME!



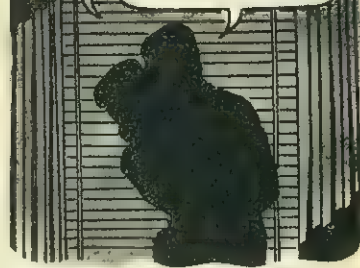
OF COURSE YOU LIKE NICE THINGS! AND YOU SHOULD HAVE THEM! BUT— WHERE IS THE SILK? I'D HAVE TO SEE IT... MAKE SURE...

NATURALLY, YOU WANT TO MAKE SURE THIS ISN'T SOME KIND OF A HOAX!



MEET ME TONIGHT AT THE DESERTED WAREHOUSE ON WHARF STREET AND I'LL TAKE YOU TO SEE THE REST OF THE SILK! BUT REMEMBER, THIS IS JUST BETWEEN US TWO — OR THE DEAL IS OFF!

I'LL BE THERE!



STANLEY SPENT THE DAY EXAMINING THE SILK ALL RIGHT! IT STOOD UP UNDER EVERY TEST HE GAVE IT.

THAT NIGHT...

THAT SILK WOULD OUTSELL OR OUTWEAR ANY REAL SILK OR SYNTHETIC I'VE EVER SEEN! AND **WHO IS SHE?** ALL SHE TOLD ME WAS THAT HER NAME IS LYCIA.



AS THE GIRL STEPPED OUT OF THE SHADOWS OF THE OLD WAREHOUSE STANLEY REGAINED HIS COMPLETE ASSURANCE.

HERE I AM, MR. RAFFEL!

YOU KNOW, LYCIA, THIS ISN'T THE KIND OF NEIGHBORHOOD FOR A GIRL LIKE YOU! YOU NEED SOMEONE TO TAKE CARE OF YOU!



I'M GLAD YOU FEEL LIKE THAT, STANLEY! I WAS SO AFRAID YOU MIGHT BECOME ALARMED!

YOU MUST ADMIT THE SETUP IS UNUSUAL! YOU MEAN YOU'VE GOT THE STUFF IN THIS OLD WAREHOUSE?



STANLEY WAS GLAD HE HAD A FLASHLIGHT AND A PISTOL IN HIS POCKETS...

UGH! SPIDER WEBS ALL OVER THE PLACE! AND RATS! WHAT KIND OF A GIRL ARE YOU, ANYHOW? YOU COULDN'T GET MOST WOMEN WITHIN A MILE OF A PLACE LIKE **THIS!**



ONE MUST OFTEN SEEK STRANGE SPOTS FOR ONE'S BUSINESS! I DON'T BOTHER THE RATS AND THEY DON'T BOTHER ME! AND SPIDER WEBS ARE RATHER BEAUTIFUL IF YOU STUDY THEM!

I AM NOT GOING TO TURN BACK NOW!

TURNING DOWN ONE OF THE NARROW DARK CORRIDORS, LYCIA OPENED A DOOR...

THERE, WHAT DO YOU SAY TO THAT? ISN'T THAT WORTH COMING THROUGH A FEW SPIDER WEBS AND RATS?

SILK! BOLT AFTER BOLT OF SILK!

IT'S THE SAME QUALITY AS THE SAMPLE YOU GAVE ME! IF WE CAN WORK OUT A PRICE, I'LL BUY ALL YOU CAN GET!

THE PRICE LYCIA NAMED WAS SURPRISINGLY LOW... AND STAN ACCEPTED ON THE SPOT...

LYCIA, WHY CAN'T YOU TELL ME WHERE THE SILK COMES FROM?

IF I TOLD YOU THAT I MADE IT MYSELF YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE ME! I'LL SUPPLY YOU... FOR CASH!

AND SO BEGAN STANLEY RAFFEL'S VERY PROFITABLE PARTNERSHIP WITH LYCIA! AS LYCIA HAD TOLD HIM, STANLEY FOUND IT CHEAPER TO BUY FROM HER THAN TO MANUFACTURE HIS OWN SILK. HE CUT THE SHIFTS IN HIS FACTORY, LAID OFF WORKERS AND SETTLED DOWN TO ENJOY THE ENORMOUS PROFITS HE WAS MAKING. MEANWHILE, ALONG THE CITY STREETS...

EEEEOWWW!

I... I'M DREAMING! IT— IT'S A NIGHTMARE!

TOO BAD, BOYS! BUT WHEN I WORK HARD, I HAVE AN ENORMOUS APPETITE!

YOU'VE BEEN GONE FOR A WEEK! AND WHERE IS THE NEW DOUBLE ORDER OF SILK YOU PROMISED ME?

YOU'LL FIND IT IN THE USUAL ROOM IN THE WAREHOUSE CELLAR, STANLEY! I HOPE YOU BROUGHT THE CASH!



YOU HAVEN'T PAID ME FOR THE LAST TWO ORDERS, AND I'M RAISING MY PRICE! MY FONDNESS FOR EXPENSIVE THINGS MAKES ME FEEL I'M ENTITLED TO **MORE** MONEY!

DON'T BE RIDICULOUS! WHO ELSE COULD TAKE A CHANCE ON THAT STUFF!



THERE'S ALWAYS SOMEONE TO TAKE A CHANCE ... IF THERE IS PROFIT INVOLVED! IF YOU WANT THE NEW ORDER OF SILK YOU MUST PAY WHAT YOU OWE ME — AND MY **NEW** PRICE!

I-I DON'T HAVE THE CASH WITH ME, LYCIA! I'LL BRING IT TO THE WAREHOUSE TONIGHT!



BUT THAT NIGHT WHEN STANLEY WENT TO THE WAREHOUSE HE HAD ALREADY MADE HIS PLANS ...

I'VE BEEN AFRAID OF THIS FROM THE BEGINNING ... THAT IT WAS TOO GOOD TO LAST!



IF THAT STUFF WASN'T STOLEN OR BOOTLEGGED, SHE WOULDN'T HAVE TO PEEDLE IT THROUGH SOMEONE ELSE — SO SHE'S NOT IN MUCH OF A POSITION TO BARGAIN!



AS STANLEY PUSHED OPEN THE CREAKING WAREHOUSE DOOR, ANOTHER ARRIVAL WAS MAKING AN ENTRANCE THROUGH THE OLD CHIMNEY ...

I'VE GOT ENOUGH MONEY NOW TO RETIRE! AND I'LL HAVE THE MONEY FROM THIS NEW ORDER AND THE TWO I HAVEN'T PAID FOR AS AN EXTRA NEST EGG!

I HAVE A FEELING YOU MAY NOT LEAVE HERE TONIGHT, STANLEY RAFFLE!

WHEN STANLEY REACHED THE FAMILIAR ROOM IN THE WAREHOUSE CELLAR, LYCIA WAS WAITING FOR HIM ...



SATISFIED, STANLEY? THE SAME QUALITY AND THE EXTRA AMOUNT YOU ORDERED!

YES, YES! IT'S REMARKABLE HOW YOU DO IT, LYCIA! I WISH I KNEW THE **SECRET!**



YOU'LL PROBABLY BE HAPPIER NOT KNOWING WHERE IT COMES FROM! AND NOW ... MY CASH PLEASE! TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS! ... AND YOU'LL MAKE SEVEN TIMES THAT ON IT!

I'LL MAKE MUCH MORE LYCIA — BECAUSE I DON'T INTEND TO PAY YOU!

AND THERE'S **NOTHING** YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT! AND AFTER **THIS DEAL**, SINCE I'M RETIRING FROM BUSINESS ... YOU'LL HAVE TO FIND YOURSELF ANOTHER "FRONT!"

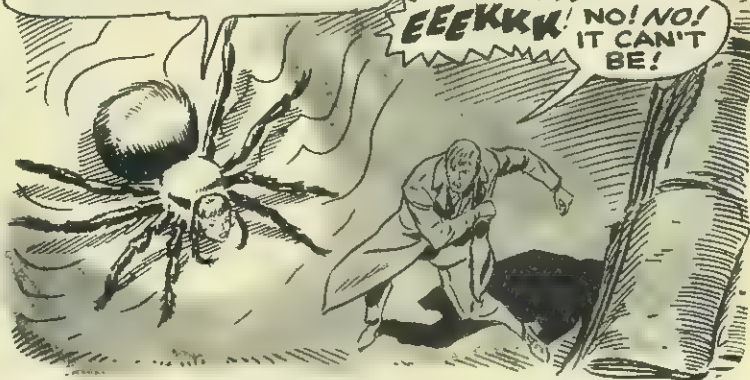
IT ISN'T HARD TO FIND YOURSELF ANOTHER "FRONT"! BUT SOONER OR LATER THE PARTNERSHIP ALWAYS ENDS... LIKE **THIS!**



SOMETHING IN LYCIA'S VOICE MADE STANLEY TURN AND WHAT HE SAW MADE HIM FREEZE WITH **HORROR** ...

BUT YOU'RE WRONG WHEN YOU SAY THERE'S **NOTHING** I CAN DO ABOUT IT! I'VE BEEN IN BUSINESS FOR A LONG, LONG TIME WITH MEN LIKE YOU ... AND SOMEHOW I ALWAYS WIN!

EEEEKKK! NO! NO! IT CAN'T BE!



STANLEY FORCED HIS BODY TO OBEY HIS TERRIFIED WILL ...

MY REVOLVER! I ... I'VE ALWAYS CARRIED IT! I ... I'VE NEVER TRUSTED YOU ... NEVER KNOWN WHAT I MIGHT RUN INTO ... AND SO I WAS PREPARED! AND NOW I'VE GOT A RIGHT TO KILL YOU!

AS HE FIRED, THE SPIDER SHOT OUT A SILKEN CORD, YANKING THE REVOLVER FROM STANLEY'S GRASP AND ENMESHING HIM IN A WEB THAT HELD HIM LIKE STEEL BANDS ...

AAHHHHHHH!

I - I CAN'T MOVE! IT'S AN ACCURSED WEB!

DIDN'T YOU GUESS? I SPIN THAT SILK MYSELF! IT REQUIRES A LOT OF ENERGY AND I OFTEN HAVE TO GORGE MYSELF TO KEEP GOING!



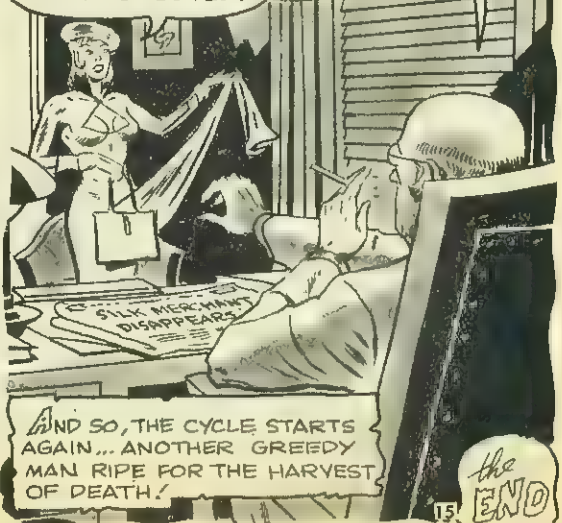
EVERYTHING I CONSUME IS TURNED INTO SILK! GEORGE MCCRAY WAS PART OF THAT BEAUTIFUL PIECE YOU FIRST SAW! AND IT WILL HAPPEN TO YOU! YOU WILL MAKE A LOVELY BOLT OF SILK!



A FEW MONTHS LATER ...

I UNDERSTAND YOU HAVE TAKEN OVER THE RAFFEL SILK COMPANY, MR. SMITHERS, AND I HAVE A SAMPLE OF SILK IN WHICH YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED!

WHY, IT'S BEAUTIFUL! WHERE DID YOU GET IT?



AND SO, THE CYCLE STARTS AGAIN ... ANOTHER GREEDY MAN RIPE FOR THE HARVEST OF DEATH!

the **END**

THE THING IN THE PARLOR



THOSE ROTTEN
COPPERS ARE
GAINING ON US!
TURN IN THAT
ALLEY, QUICK!

YEAH... NO
THANKS TO YOU!
NOW WE GOTTA
DUMP THIS CAR!

MINUTES LATER...

THAT'S IT!
NOW WE'RE
CLEAN! NOW
WE GOTTA
LAY LOW!

THESE
TENEMENT
SECTIONS
ARE GOOD,
JOEY! NO ONE
WILL FIND
US HERE!

WE FOOLED
'EM, JOEY,
HA, HA, HA!

BLAM

WEEEEE

EEEE

SKREEEE

SO JOEY FERRIS AND PETE BARLO, FOUND THEIR RATS
ROOST QUICKLY...



FIFTEEN
BUCKS A
WEEK... IN
ADVANCE!

OKAY... BUT NO DISTURBANCES
...UNDERSTAND? WE WANT
PRIVACY!

WHATA
DUMP!

OH ALL THE PLACES TO HOLE
UP IN... WE GOTTA PICK THIS
FLEA BAG! YOU AND YOUR
BIG IDEAS!

STOP GRIPIN!
IN TWO WEEKS
WE CAN BLOW
THIS DUMP!

BUT TWO WEEKS IS
A LONG TIME, PETE!
IF I EVER CATCH
ANYONE O' THOSE
BIRDS WALTZIN'
AROUND HERE
I'LL FIX HIS
WAGON!

DON'T WORRY,
PAL! NO ONE'S
GONNA FIND
OUT ABOUT--

--THIS!

YEAH! THEY
BETTER NOT...
OR THEY'LL
NEVER SEE
ANYTHING
AGAIN!

ONLY THING IS...
WE GOTTA MAKE
LIKE WE'RE THE
NEIGHBORS
WE GOTTA
MINGLE IN
WITH THOSE
JERKS DOWN
BELOW!

THAT OUGHTA'
BE EASY! ALL
WE GOTTA DO
IS TEAR OUR
PANTS, NOT
SHAVE... THIS
IS GONNA BE
A BREEZE!
HA, HA!

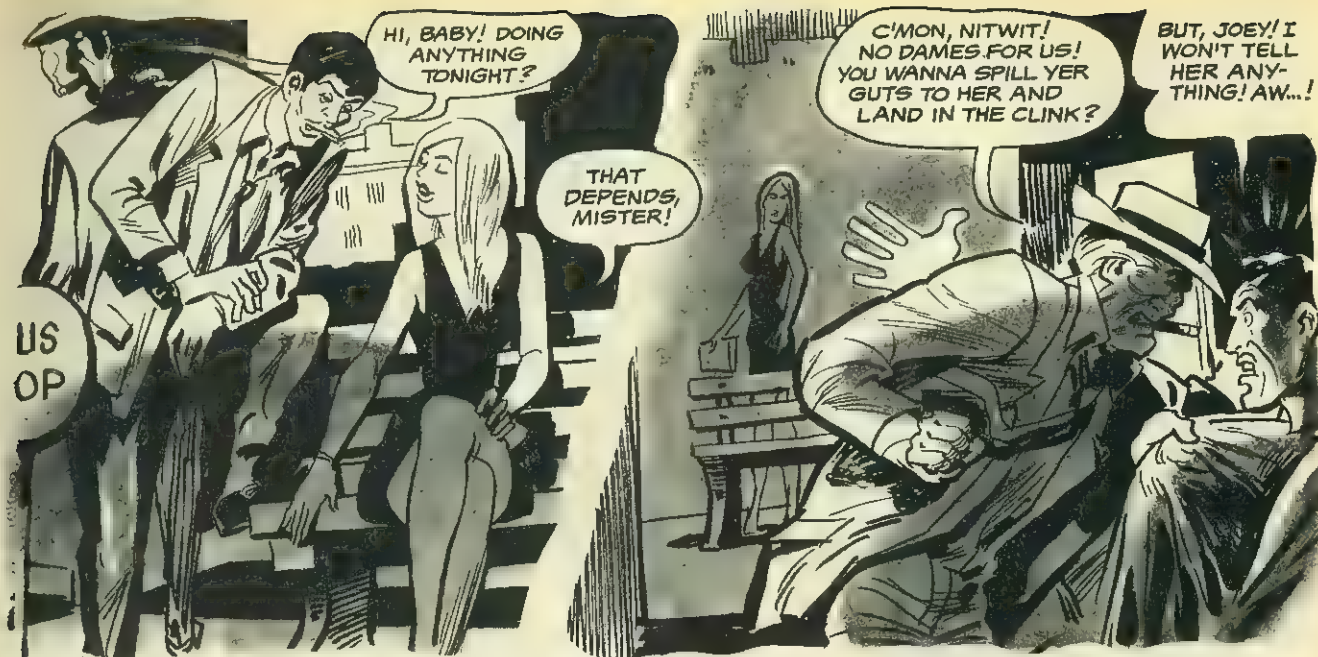


AND A FEW DAYS LATER, THE TWO MEN BEGAN
THEIR PLAN OF LOSING THEIR IDENTITIES...

PHWE, DIS STINK IS KILLIN'
ME! I'D RATHER GO BACK
INTO MY HOLE AND SWEAT!
ANYTHING BUT THIS!

LET THESE NOSEY APES
THINK WE'RE OUT OF WORK
OR SOMETHING! NOW
JUST SHADDUP!





BUT JOEY COULDN'T GET THE BLOATED OLD LADY
OUT OF HIS MIND... HE COULDN'T...

SHE'S RICH, HEH?
WHATCHA THINK,
EH, PETE?

PROBABLY
JUST!

HOLY SMOKE!
W-WHAT WAS
THAT? SOUNDED
WEIRD!

IT WAS A SCREAM...
AND IT CAME FROM
THAT OLD BAG'S
HOUSE! YOU AND I
GOT A DATE
WITH HER
TOMORROW,
PAL!

AND
THAT
DAWN,
THE
TWO
PARKED
THEM-
SELVES
ON
HER
DOOR-
STEPS...

WE'RE YOUR NEIGHBORS,
MA'AM! CAN WE HELP
YOU DOWN THE
STEPS?

THANK YOU! YOU'RE
VERY KIND! SEEMS I
HAVEN'T HEARD YOUR
VOICES AROUND
HERE BEFORE!

UH...WE'RE NEW
HERE! BUT WE
HEARD SCREAMS
LAST NIGHT AND
THEY SEEMED
TO COME FROM
YOUR HOUSE!

OH, THAT!
JUST MY PARROT!
SHE LOVES TO SCREAM!
YOU'LL HAVE TO FORGIVE
HER, SIR!

AND THANK YOU FOR
YOUR KIND ATTENTION!
NOW I HAVE TO GET
TO WORK! EVEN THE
BLIND MUST LIVE!
HEH, HEH!

SHE DON'T
LOOK SO BLIND
TO ME! SHE
AINT GOT NO
WALKING
CANE!

BLIND OR
NOT, PETE,
SHE'S GOT
DOUGH! SHE'S
A SHREWD
BIRD ALL
RIGHT! BUT
NOT SHREWD
ENOUGH! I
THINK WE'LL
PAY HER A
VISIT LATER
TONIGHT!

AND WHEN MIDNIGHT CAST ITS CLOAK
OF SILENCE ON THE NEIGHBORHOOD...

THINK SHE HEARD
US BRAKE IN THE
BACK DOOR?

NAW! AND EVEN IF
SHE DID... SO WHAT?
SHE CAN'T DO ANYTHING
TO STOP US NOW!

LOOK,
THERE
SHE IS!

AND SHE'S COUNTING HER
DOUGH! O.K.! GIVE IT TO HER!
IT'S GOTTA BE FAST!



WHAT
TH--!?

HEY!

GOOD
EVENING,
GENTLEMEN!

CLANK
CLANK

BUT JUST AS THEY STEPPED INSIDE...

OH, NO! I COULDN'T DO THAT!
YOU'D CHEAT ME OUT OF A MEAL...
AND THEY WOULD THINK I'M
NOT CAPABLE...



HEY... LET US OUTTA
THIS MONKEY CAGE!
YOU NUTS OR SOME-
THING? LET
US OUT!



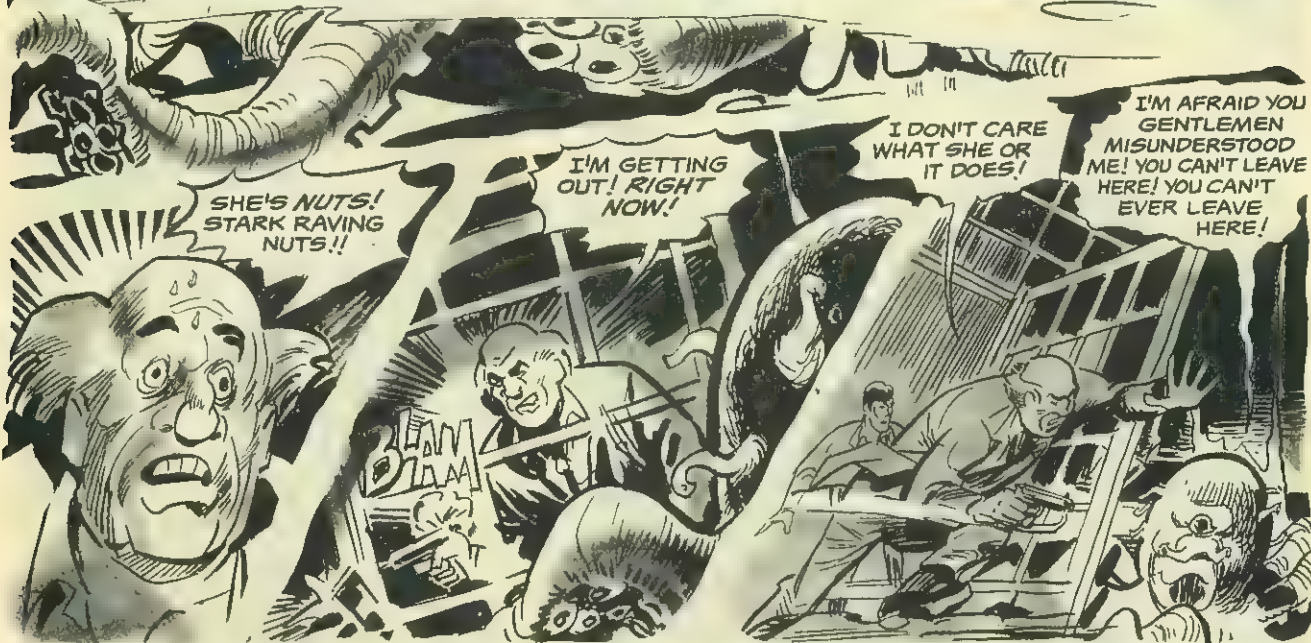
WHAT ARE
YOU TALKING
ABOUT? JUST GET
US OUTTA HERE!
WE WON'T TOUCH
YOUR MONEY!

MONEY? IS THAT WHAT
YOU CAME HERE FOR? OH...
HOW FOOLISH! HEH, HEH!
IT'S RAW BEEF! I EAT
BEEF EVERY DAY! I
NEED THE BONES!



HE
HE

THE WATCHERS ON MY PLANET PUT ME HERE... ON THIS WORLD, BECAUSE I'M A CRIMINAL! YOU SEE, I DISLIKE EATING HUMAN MEAT THERE... AND SO THEY'RE PUNISHING ME! I HAVE TO EAT YOU POOR CREATURES AND SAVE YOUR BONES! WHEN I FILL MY QUOTA, THEY'LL LET ME RETURN!



SHE'S NUTS!
STARK RAVING
NUTS!!

I'M GETTING
OUT! RIGHT
NOW!

I DON'T CARE
WHAT SHE OR
IT DOES!

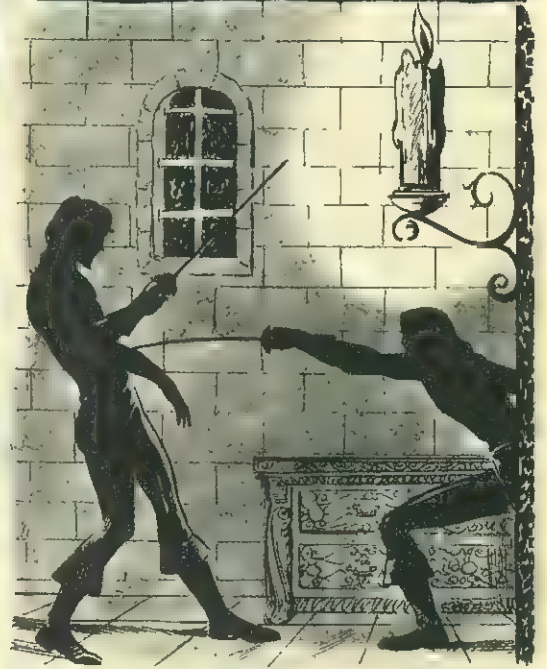
I'M AFRAID YOU
GENTLEMEN
MISUNDERSTOOD
ME! YOU CAN'T LEAVE
HERE! YOU CAN'T
EVER LEAVE
HERE!



EEEEARRR

DEADMAN'S DUEL

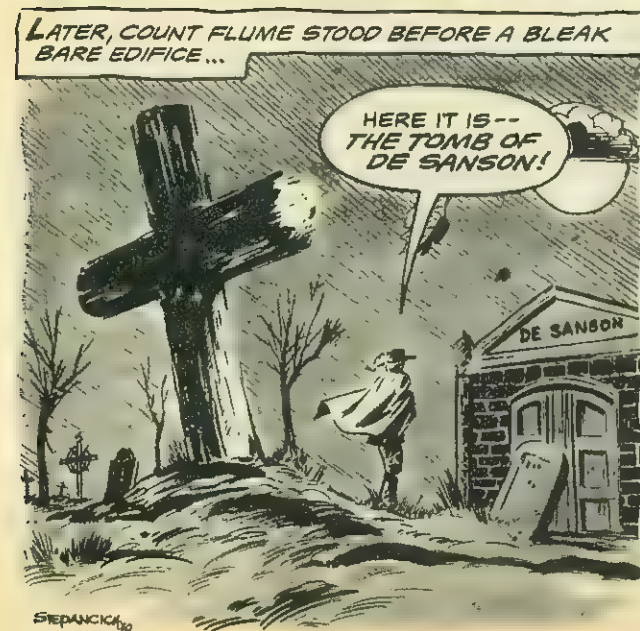
IN A DANK, MUSTY ROOM, TWO MEN ARE LOCKED IN COMBAT!



AHH, COUNT FLUME... YOU LOWERED YOUR GUARD!

I--I FORGOT! BUT I WILL LEARN! YOU WILL SEE DAILLOT!





SUFFOCATINGLY, THE TOMB'S DUSTY, FETID INTERIOR WAS MADE BLACKER, DEEPER, BY THE THIN VEIL OF DEATH THAT FLOATED OVER IT...



HERE IT IS! I'VE GOT **DE SANSON'S SWORD!** I'LL... WAIT! THOSE EYES! THEY SEEM TO BE LOOKING AT ME! I BETTER CLOSE THE COFFIN LID!



MYSTICALLY, THE LID TO DE SANSON'S COFFIN WOULD NOT CLOSE! VAINLY, COUNT FLUME TRIED TO SHUT OFF THOSE BLAZING EYES!

IT WON'T CLOSE! UNNN-H! **IT WON'T CLOSE!** I'VE GOT TO GET AWAY FROM **THOSE EYES!**

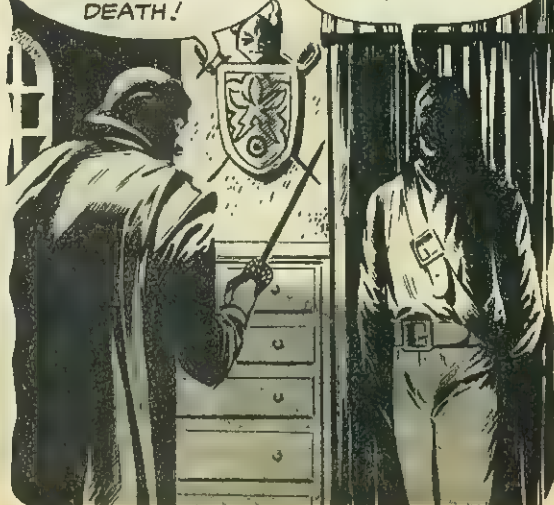


FREE! HA! HA! I'LL CHALLENGE DAILLOT TO A DUEL! WE'LL SEE HOW GOOD HE IS AGAINST **DE SANSON'S SWORD!**



DAILLOT, YESTERDAY YOU INSULTED MY HONOR! FOR THAT, I CHALLENGE YOU! TO A DUEL OF DEATH!

THIS IS SILLY! BUT... IF YOU INSIST... I CANNOT REJECT A CHALLENGE!



THE NEXT MORNING, THE STILL QUIET MISTS OF THE MARSHES ROSE AROUND COUNT FLUME AND DAILLOT! HOWEVER, A STRANGER APPEARED...

GENTLEMEN, YOU WILL NEED A...A... REFEREE FOR THIS DUEL!

WE DO NOT NEED ANYONE! GO AWAY!

NO... STAY! YOU SHALL SEE IF WE FIGHT IN FAIRNESS!



THUS...IT BEGAN...

HOW IS YOUR PUPIL... NOW? HA! HA!

I--I NEVER THOUGHT I WOULD...



... LOSE! YAA-AH!

HA! THE SWORD WORKS! IT WORKS! HA! HA! I AM POWERFUL... THE NEW MASTER OF SWORDS!

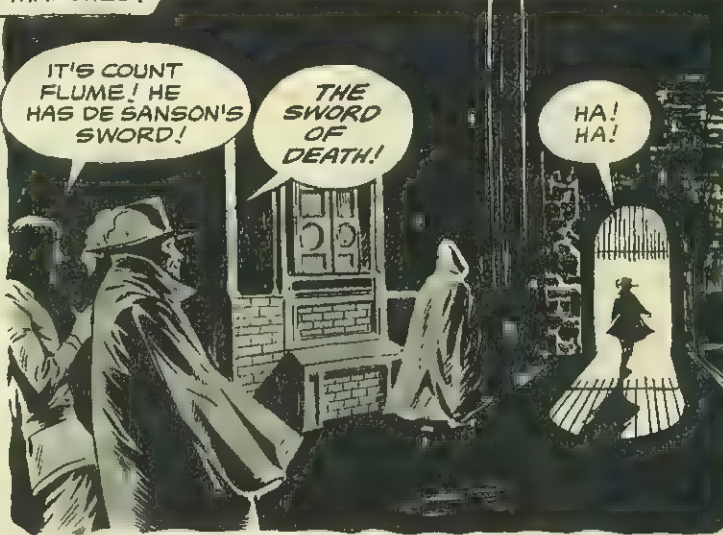


COUNT FLUME BECAME THE MASTER OF SWORDS! SOON... IT WAS KNOWN THAT HE POSSESSED DE SANSON'S SWORD! EVERYONE COWERED... EXCEPT THE STRANGER OF THE MARCHES!

IT'S COUNT FLUME! HE HAS DE SANSON'S SWORD!

THE SWORD OF DEATH!

HA! HA!



THAT MAN! THAT STRANGER... BEEN FOLLOWING ME! I'LL FIND OUT WHO HE IS...



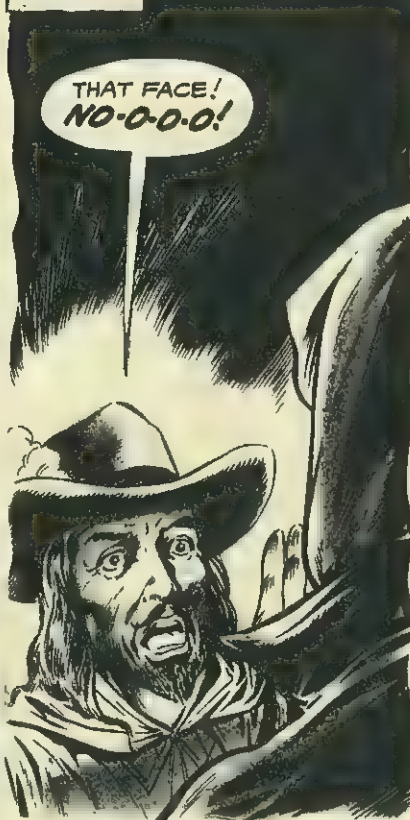
SIR, YOU HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING ME! WHAT DO YOU WANT? WHO ARE YOU?

HERE IS MY CARD, COUNT FLUME!





THE STRANGER WAS LIKE A SHADOW... AMORPHOUS, SLITHERING! FLUME FELT THE CHILLING, FAINT WHISPER OF DEATH ABOUT HIM! IT BECAME LOUDER... UNTIL HE SAW...



COUNT FLUME FELL TO THE GROUND, THE GRIPPING, PANGS OF DEATH JARRING HIS BODY! THE SWORD HE HAD HOPED TO BECOME MASTER WITH HAD IRONICALLY BEEN WIELDED AGAINST HIM... BY IT'S RIGHTFUL OWNER...



... BACK TO THE FUNERAL ENCLOSURE OF PERPETUAL REST! ONCE AGAIN, THE SWORD OF DEATH IS AT THE SIDE OF DE SANSON!



GHASTLY BEYOND ALL BELIEF ARE THE BLACK MYSTERIES OF AFRICA! ALICE DANE NEVER PRIED INTO THEM! SHE WAS AN INNOCENT VICTIM! NO ONE BELIEVES NOW WHAT HAPPENED TO HER! BUT HERE IT IS-- THE STORY OF PETER AND ALICE DANE, AND...

THE WITCH DOCTOR



THE WEIRD THING BEGAN WHEN YOUNG PETER DANE WAS ASSISTANT TO THE BRITISH COMMISSIONER IN THE SMALL JUNGLE VILLAGE OF BOMA!

SUCH THINGS ARE NOT FOR THE WHITE MAN, DANE--**DON'T PRY INTO THEM!**

O.K., COMMISSIONER!

BUT I'D CERTAINLY LIKE TO SEE WHAT'S GOING ON!

NATIVES ARE SURE EXCITED THESE DAYS, COMMISSIONER! WITCHCRAFT STUFF! OUGHTN'T WE STOP IT?

LET THEM ALONE, DANE!

BUT, AS THE LIGHT OF THE AFRICAN MOON POURED DOWN AT MIDNIGHT...

A SECRET RITUAL--TABU FOR THE EYES OF A WHITE MAN!

THE MAGIC POTION WAS BREWED...

THERE THEY GO TO THEIR MEETING PLACE... GOT TO BE VERY CAREFUL THEY DON'T SPOT ME!

THAT'S THE WITCH DOCTOR GETTING READY FOR A SACRED DANCE!

DRINK THE SACRED BREW... THEN DANCE, AND THE DEVILS ALL WILL BE FRIGHTENED AWAY FROM US!

IT'S THE **LEOPARD DANCE**... I'LL BE THE FIRST WHITE MAN EVER TO SEE IT!

The DREAD AND TERRIBLE LEOPARD DANCE! THE NATIVE DRUMS SOUNDED THEIR FRANTIC RHYTHM, AND...



DANCERS
WITH
LEOPARD
SKINS
OVER
THEM!
BUT
WAS
THE
MOON-
LIGHT
PLAYING
TRICKS
WITH
DANE?
SUDDENLY...



WHY... WHY THEY'VE
TURNED INTO LEOPARDS!
OH-OH-- I'VE BEEN
SPOTTED!

MASTER, LOOK-
WHITE MAN!

DANE BOLTED... AND AS HE PASSED THE
LITTLE DAIS...



ACCURSED
WHITE
MAN!

THE MAGIC
BREW! MIGHT
AS WELL TAKE
SOME AS A
SOUVENIR!
HA! HA!

AND AS DANE FLED...



IMPIOUS WHITE
MAN! THE BLACK
CURSE OF THE
JUNGLE WILL BE
UPON YOU!

AFTER THAT, DANE RESIGNED
HIS POST AND WENT TO THE
NEAR-BY SEAPORT OF NARABA!
HE STILL HAD THE GOURD HE
HAD STOLEN... AND ONE NIGHT...



WONDER
WHAT THE
STUFF
WOULD
TASTE
LIKE?

THE AFRICAN MOONLIGHT
WAS BRIGHT IN HIS WIN-
DOW, LIKE A SIREN
LURE...



JUST A SIP
COULDN'T
HURT ME...

HIS HEAD SWAM MADLY...
AND IN ANOTHER MINUTE---



WHY... WHY...
AAGHRR-R!

THEN... A GHASTLY METAMORPHOSIS!



A HORRIBLE HUMAN BEAST! BUT THERE WAS A CUNNING IN HIM, SO THAT HE FLED UP INTO THE STEAMING JUNGLE...



AND THEN WITH INHUMAN STRENGTH...



SUDDENLY... LIKE A FIRE BEING QUENCHED...



NOW, A WILD TERROR WAS UPON HIM...



PETER DANE
TOLD
HIMSELF
THAT HE
WOULD
THROW AWAY
THE WITCH-
BREW! BUT
HE DIDN'T,
AND THE
NEXT
NIGHT---



NO! NO!
I WON'T DRINK
IT... I WON'T!!

BUT... HE DID, AND...

THE NIGHT
AWAITS ME!
HA! HA! HA!



THAT NIGHT... AND ANOTHER...
LIKE A DRUG ADDICT NOW!
PETER DANE HAD NO JOB!
HIS MONEY WAS GIVING
OUT... AND ONE EVENING...

THERE'S THE U.S. CONSUL,
AND HIS DAUGHTER...
MAYBE I COULD GET A
JOB IN THE CONSULATE!



IN THE FOLLOWING WEEKS, HE
RESISTED HIS GHASTLY, EVIL
TEMPTATION, AND...

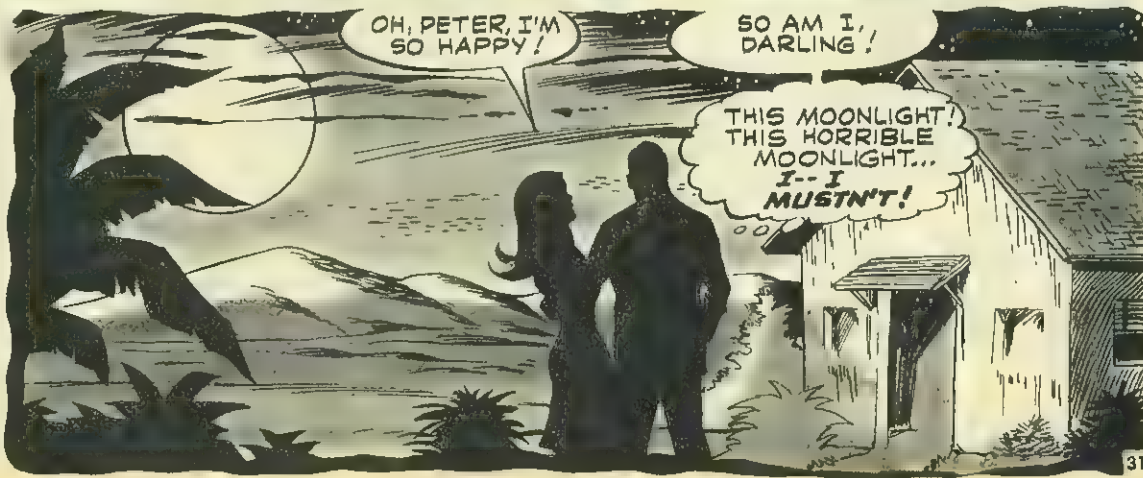
FATHER
SAYS
YOU'RE
DOING FINE
IN THE
OFFICE,
PETER!

I'M GLAD,
DEAR!

I... I MUST
NEVER TAKE
THAT TERRIBLE
STUFF AGAIN



their
MARRIAGE
CEREMONY
WAS
SMALL...
DANE
CHOSE A
LITTLE
HOUSE
AT THE
EDGE
OF THE
VILLAGE



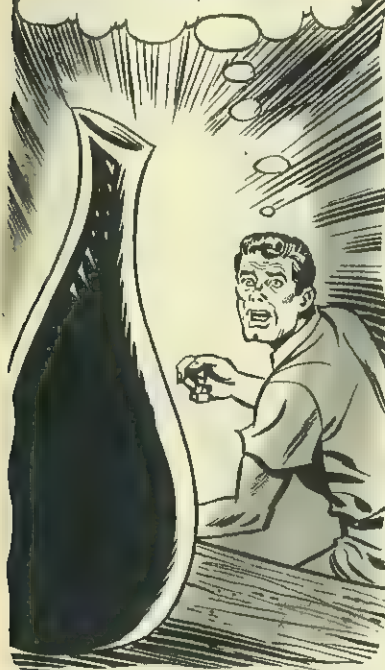
OH, PETER, I'M
SO HAPPY!

SO AM I,
DARLING!

THIS MOONLIGHT!
THIS HORRIBLE
MOONLIGHT...
I-- I
MUSTN'T!

BUT LATER THAT NIGHT---
WHEN ALICE WAS ASLEEP...

SHE'D NEVER KNOW...
YET IF SHE'D FIND
OUT, SHE'D LEAVE ME!
BUT...BUT, MAYBE...



MAYBE IF I GIVE HER
SOME, TOO... THEN WE
COULD GO OUT
TOGETHER!



LIKE A DRUG ADDICT WITH THE
GHASTLY INSTINCT TO TEACH
ANOTHER...

ALICE... YOU SAID
YOU HAD A
HEADACHE! TAKE
A LITTLE SIP
OF THIS...

WHAT,
DEAR?



HE HAD FORCED IT ON HER BEFORE
SHE WAS REALLY AWAKE, AND...

UGH!
IT TASTES
AWFUL!
WHAT
IS IT?

YOU'LL SEE!
HA! HA! HA!



*BUT
THERE
WAS NO
CURSE
UPON
THE
BEAUTIFUL
ALICE
DANE...
ONLY
UPON
HER
HUSBAND...
AND
SHE
DID
NOT
CHANGE!*

**PETER!
PETER!
AAAIEEE!**

WHA--? IT
DOESN'T DO
ANYTHING TO
HER!



GOT TO KILL HER,
OR SHE'LL TELL!
CAN'T KILL HER
HERE---I'D BE
CAUGHT!



HE RAN OUT INTO THE MISTY TROPICAL HILLS...



GOT TO KILL HER!

AND THEN ATOP A CLIFF...



TOO BAD IT WOULDN'T MAKE YOU BECOME LIKE ME, ALICE! AND NOW YOU HAVE TO DIE!!

HELP! HELP! AIEEE!

BUT, SUDDENLY...



NO HARM CAN COME TO HER PETER DANE! THE GREAT SPIRITS WATCH OVER HER... ALWAYS! BUT YOU...

WHA---?

WHY DID THE ROCKS, THERE AT THE BRINK, SUDDENLY CRUMBLE UNDER THE TREAD OF THE MONSTER?



YOU SEE? YOU HAVE ALWAYS BEEN DOOMED, PETER DANE!

ARRRRHH!

THEN THERE WAS NOTHING THERE BUT THE BROKEN BODY OF PETER DANE...



OH, PETER... PETER!

AT DAWN, A PARTY OF HUNTERS FOUND THE BABBLING WOMAN--- HYSTERICAL IN HER TERROR!



WHY... IT'S MRS. DANE!

WHAT HAPPENED?

OH-- IT WAS HORRIBLE! HORRIBLE! YOU WON'T BELIEVE ME... NO ONE WOULD...

DARK AND TERRIBLE ARE THE BLACK MYSTERIES OF AFRICA! BEYOND THE BELIEF OF ANY WHITE MAN! THE END!

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INSIDE THE DOORWAY THERE WERE LIGHTS, MUSIC, THE LILTING LAUGHTER OF WOMEN! BUT WHAT SEEMED LIKE A **PALACE OF PLEASURE** WAS REALLY A YAWNING PIT OF **HELL !!!**



WHY... WHY SHE'S **GONE!** BUT... I... I **MUST** SEE HER AGAIN!



IN THAT BRIEF MOMENT EVERYTHING ABOUT HER HAD BEEN BRANDED INTO DAVE ROBBINS' BRAIN AND HER SEARING IMAGE URGED HIM INTO AN UNKNOWN PLACE...

GOOD EVENING, SIR... WELCOME TO THE "FRIENDSHIP CLUB" WHERE MEN CAN SEE THEIR DREAMS COME **TRUE!** FIVE DOLLARS FOR NEW MEMBERS!

SURE, SURE... OKAY, HERE!



FINALLY HE SAW HER AGAIN, AND HER LAUGH
RIPPLED HIS BLOOD LIKE A SUBTLE POISON!

OH, RAY...
HA-HA-HA!

I MUST TALK
TO HER... I'LL
CUT IN...

SCRAM, BUDDY! THERE'S
NO CUTTING IN WITH
MY GIRL!



HUMILIATED, AND IN FRONT OF HER, TOO, HE
STALKED FROM THE FLOOR AND BLACK
THOUGHTS SEETHED IN HIS BRAIN...

THAT BIG APE HASN'T
SEEN THE LAST
OF ME! I'LL...

MAY I HAVE
A LIGHT,
PLEASE!

HUH?



YOU MUSTN'T MIND RAY...
HE'S AN OLD FRIEND,
AND LIKES TO **THINK**
HE'S MY **WATCHDOG!**

WELL, PERHAPS
SOMEBODY OUGHT
TO **MUZZLE**
THAT DOG!



BY THE WAY, I'M DAWN
LEE! I DON'T BELIEVE
I'VE SEEN YOU AT THE
CLUB BEFORE!

I'M DAVE ROBBINS,
AND I JOINED THIS
CLUB TONIGHT, THE
MOMENT I SAW YOU
IN THE DOORWAY!



SOON SHE WAS IN HIS ARMS, AND HER STEP WAS
AS LIGHT AS AN AUTUMN LEAF... OR AS LIGHT AS
A **GHOSTS!**

WHAT IS A GIRL AS BEAUTIFUL
AS YOU DOING AT A
FRIENDSHIP CLUB?
SURELY YOU HAVE
NO TROUBLE WITH
YOUR FACE!

PERHAPS, DAVE YOU
DO NOT SEE THE
REAL ME! PERHAPS
I'M A BEAUTIFUL
VISION IN YOUR
IMAGINATION! HA-HA!



THAT LAUGH AGAIN...MYSTERIOUS...AS FRAGILE AS ICE FALLING AND TINKLING ON A PAVEMENT... AND SOMEHOW AS COLD AS A CEMETERY WIND! BUT SOON SHE HAD TO LEAVE...

IT'S BEEN FUN, DAVE!

DAWN, I MUST SEE YOU AGAIN!



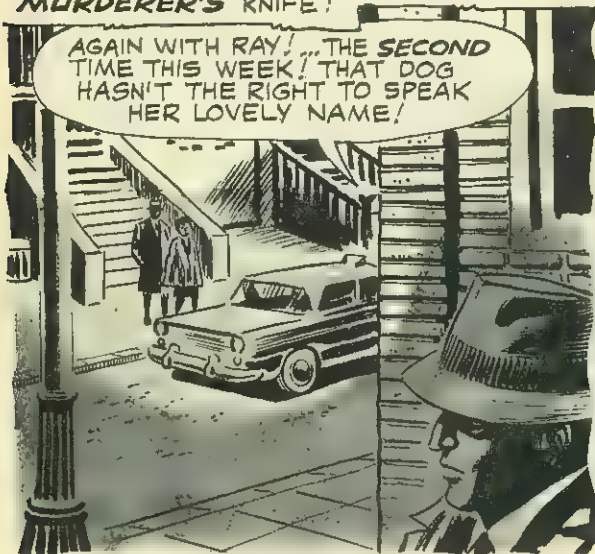
DAVE ROBBINS COULDN'T GET HER OUT OF HIS MIND! SHE WAS HIS GOAL, AND HE SET OUT TO OWN HER...

SHE'S SO STRANGELY BEAUTIFUL! WE'D LOOK SPLENDID AS MAN AND WIFE! IT MUST BE AT ANY COST!



BUT SOON HE SAW SOMETHING THAT STABBED AT HIS HEART WITH THE COLD FURY OF A MURDERER'S KNIFE!

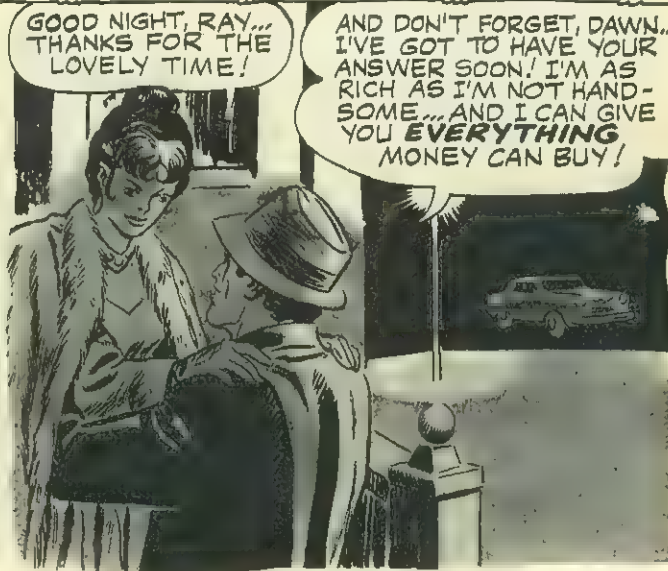
AGAIN WITH RAY!...THE SECOND TIME THIS WEEK! THAT DOG HASN'T THE RIGHT TO SPEAK HER LOVELY NAME!



THRU THE LONG, BITTER HOURS HE WAITED, THEN...

GOOD NIGHT, RAY... THANKS FOR THE LOVELY TIME!

AND DON'T FORGET, DAWN... I'VE GOT TO HAVE YOUR ANSWER SOON! I'M AS RICH AS I'M NOT HANDSOME... AND I CAN GIVE YOU EVERYTHING MONEY CAN BUY!



RAY STARTED HOME, AND A CAR SLITHERED AWAY FROM THE CURB...



NO... NO! AAAHHH!



THERE WAS A DULL THUD ON THE BUMPER...
THE SCREAMING WAS OVER AND A CAR
SPED AWAY LEAVING **DEATH** AS ITS WAKE!



NO ONE SAW ME! I
COULDN'T ASK FOR MORE!
AND NOW, EVERYTHING
WILL BE **DOWNHILL!**

FOR SEVERAL DAYS DAVE ROBBINS KEPT HIM-
SELF LOCKED IN HIS ROOM, HIS CAR LOCKED
IN THE GARAGE, AND A SECRET LOCKED IN HIS
HEART! FINALLY HE CALLED HER AND SHE
CONSENTED TO MEET HIM...

DAWN--HOW WONDERFUL
IT IS TO SEE YOUR
BEAUTIFUL FACE AGAIN!
LET'S WALK IN THE PARK...
I--I MUST TELL YOU
SOMETHING!

ALL RIGHT,
DAVE...WHAT-
EVER YOU
WISH!



LISTEN TO ME, DAWN...
LISTEN TO WHAT I'VE
DONE BECAUSE OF YOU!
IT WAS I WHO KILLED RAY!
I COULDN'T LET ANYONE
STAND BETWEEN US!
AND YOU'VE GOT TO
MARRY ME!

OF COURSE I WILL,
DARLING--ONLY
YOU DIDN'T HAVE
TO **KILL RAY!**
I'D NEVER MARRY
AN **UGLY MAN**
LIKE HIM! IT'S
YOUR **HAND-**
SOME FACE I
WANT NEXT
TO MINE!



SHE NEVER BLINKED AN EYE...HER COLD LIPS
BLENDED WITH HIS AND HER ARMS CIRCLED
HIS NECK LIKE SILENT, PALE SNAKES...

YOU... YOUR
CHEEK IS SO
COLD!

IT'S THE NIGHT AIR, MY
DARLING, NEVER MIND THAT!
JUST TELL ME WHEN WE'LL
BE MARRIED!



LIFE MOVED FAST AFTER THAT NIGHT! SOON THE TWO OF THEM STOOD BEFORE THE MAN WHO WOULD UNITE THEM FOR LIFE!

AND THEN, DAVE CARRIED HIS BRIDE HOME! HE HAD SUCCEEDED, AND THIS UNMATCHABLE BEAUTY WAS HIS! BUT THERE WAS STILL A **SECRET** HE HAD TO TELL... ONE SECRET THAT COULD WAIT NO LONGER...



I SUPPOSE DAWN, YOU'VE WONDERED WHY THERE'S NEVER BEEN ANOTHER WOMAN IN MY LIFE... WHY I SOUGHT YOU AT THE **FRIENDSHIP CLUB**! I DIDN'T WANT TO TELL YOU THIS BEFORE, BUT IT'S TOO LATE FOR YOU TO DO ANYTHING!

DAVE... YOU **FRIGHTEN** ME... WHAT IS IT?

YOU SEE, DARLING, THINGS ARE NOT ALWAYS AS THEY APPEAR! HAH-HA-HA!



NOW COME HERE!

OF COURSE, DAVE... I'M YOUR **WIFE**! BUT, DEAR, HAVEN'T YOU EVER WONDERED WHY ONE AS BEAUTIFUL AS I HAVE NEVER MARRIED? BEFORE YOU KISS ME LET ME TELL YOU **MY SECRET**!

THE GIRL WHO NEVER SHUDDERED WHEN SHE LEARNED OF RAY'S DEATH... WHO DIDN'T TURN HER HEAD WHEN SHE SAW THE HORROR OF DAVE'S FACE, WHIPPED A HAND TO HER BEAUTIFUL FACE... AND WITH A GENTLE, URGING VOICE---

NOW, DAVE... AREN'T YOU GOING TO **KISS** YOUR WIFE?



THE NARROW, WINDING ROAD THAT
TWISTS UP PRECIPITOUS CLIFFS TO
THE GRIM CASTLE THAT ETCHES
THE ANGRY SKY IS CALLED BY
THOSE WHO LIVE IN ITS
SHADOWS, THE...

HOUSE OF MONSTERS

AT THIS POINT IT MUST
BE NOTED THAT THE
DORNER BOTH HERE AND
ABROAD ARE A FAMILY
OF NOTED SCIENTISTS WHO
SPECIALIZE IN PSYCHIC
PHENOMENA AS WELL
AS OTHER UNUSUAL
EXPERIMENTS! THE
CASTLE ON BLACK MOUNTAIN
HAS PASSED FROM
GENERATION TO
GENERATION AND NOW
PAUL DORNER IS ABOUT
TO INHERIT THE
EDIFICE!

[illegible]

THANKS...
I'LL TAKE
THE ADVICE!

NOTHING I'D CARE
TO TELL YOU,
STRANGER! ASK
THAT BAR FLY OVER
THERE... HE'S GOT
THE ANSWERS!

ER-MIND IF I
JOIN YOU, SIR?
MY NAME IS
DORNER!

DORNER?
..CASTLE?
ARRGH-HH!

MONSTER! MONSTER!!

TAKE IT EASY!
I'M YOUR FRIEND!
COME BACK!
HEY!

KEEP AWAY!

NEXT EVENING- PAUL WAS EAGER TO BE OFF, BUT IN THE SILENCE OF THE MOUNTAINS AND THE DRUNK'S TERROR STILL WITH HIM, HE BEGAN TO FEEL HIS CONFIDENCE OOOZE AWAY!



IF HE HAD KNOWN WHAT HORRORS WERE BEING HATCHED BY THE DARK FORCES OF EVIL IN THE CASTLE HE WOULD'VE TURNED BACK!

YOUNG DORNER IS ON HIS WAY, PROFESSOR! WE GOTTA GET RID OF HIM!

DON'T WORRY! A SHOT OF THIS SERUM INTO OUR LITTLE FRIEND HERE WILL DECIDE WHO OWNS THE CASTLE!



PROF. VARIG ASSISTANT TO PAUL'S UNCLE WITHDREW THE NEEDLE AND THEN WATCHED IT GROW INTO A FRIENZIED HULK OF A MONSTER, THEN VARIG SET IT ON THE ROAD OF NO RETURN TO MEET PAUL DORNER!



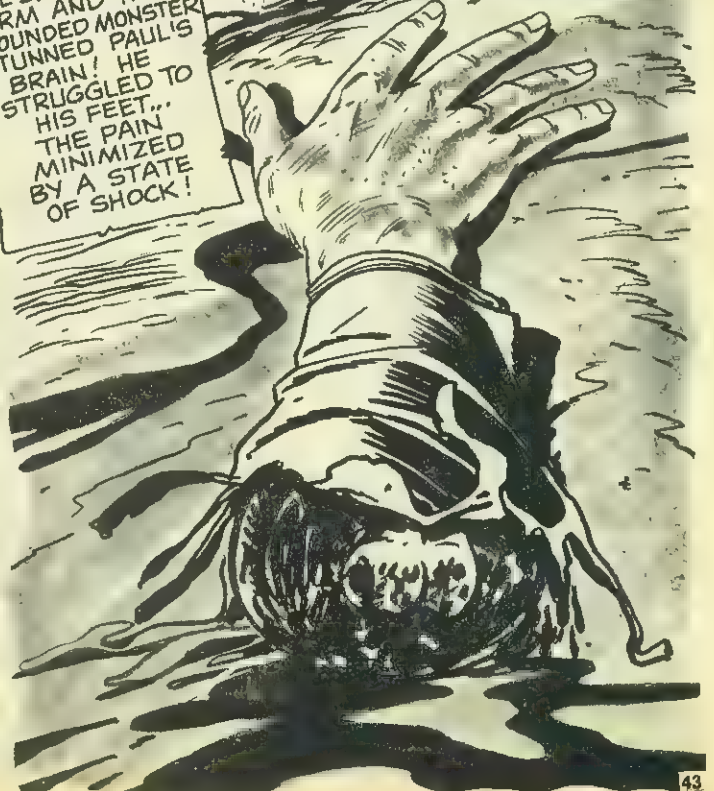
PAUL FROZE IN HIS TRACKS AS THE LOATHSOME HULK BLOCKED HIS PATH AND REACHED FOR HIM!

TERROR FORCED HIS HAND TO RIP AN AUTOMATIC FROM ITS HOLSTER AND AS THE GUN SPAT OUT A STACCATO OF LEAD, HIDEOUS SCREAMS ROARED THROUGHOUT THE MOUNTAINSIDE...

SUDDENLY, A SWISH OF AIR AND...



THE SIGHT OF HIS ARM AND THE WOUNDED MONSTER STUNNED PAUL'S BRAIN! HE STRUGGLED TO HIS FEET... THE PAIN MINIMIZED BY A STATE OF SHOCK!

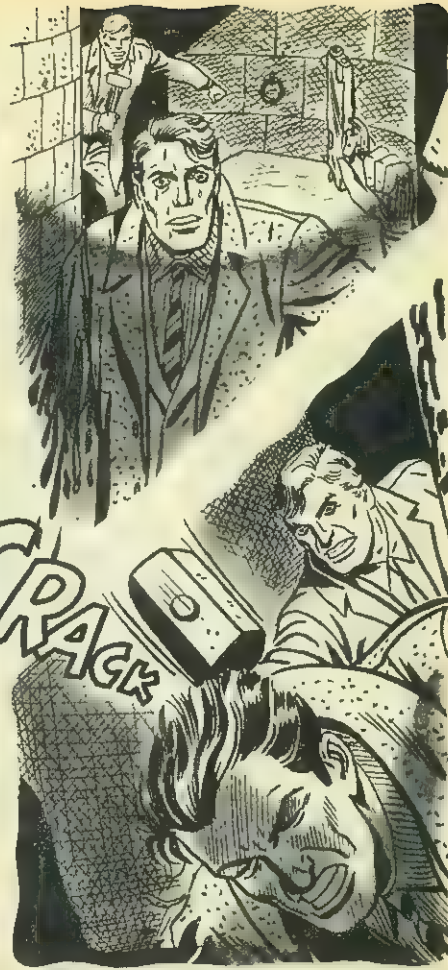


...AND STUMBLED DAZEDLY INTO DORNER CASTLE AS UNSEEN EYES WATCHED CLOSELY EVERY STEP HE MADE IN THE EERIE CORRIDORS!



HE GOT PAST THE MONSTER! I'LL FIX HIM FOR YOU NOW, PROFESSOR!

VERY WELL... BUT DON'T MESS HIM UP... I WANT A GOOD SPECIMEN!



HOURS LATER, THE ACRID ODOR OF DISINFECTANTS AND A THROBBING ARM AWAKENED PAUL DORNER INTO A SCENE OF INDESCRIBABLE HORROR ...



...ONLY TO LEARN HIS FATE AS PRESCRIBED BY PROFESSOR VARIG!

PAUL, IN YOUR CONDITION, YOU'RE STILL USEFUL TO SCIENCE! DID YOUR UNCLE EVER TELL YOU ABOUT OUR HOBBY OF VIVISECTION? NO?... NEVER MIND!

- WE ONLY NEED YOUR LEFT ARM!



BY THE WAY, YOUR UNCLE'S WILL GAVE US MORE MATERIAL TO WORK ON THAN WE BARGAINED FOR... FIRST HIM AND NOW... YOU!



PAUL IN HIS DAZED CONDITION DID NOT UNDERSTAND... BUT WHEN THE PROFESSOR TOLD HIS ASSISTANT TO BRING PAUL'S UNCLE...THE HORRIBLE TRUTH BEGAN TO DAWN ON HIM!

MEET YOUR NEPHEW, DORNER! HE HAS COME TO HELP US!

Y-YOU COULDN'T HAVE SOB-
Y-YOU...
MADMEN!

THAT'S NOT MY UNCLE!
HE'S DEAD!
--DEAD!

PAUL'S MIND WANDERED... THE LOSS OF BLOOD FROM HIS WOUND FORCED HIM INTO A WELCOMED BLACKOUT WHEN SUDDENLY THE LAB WAS FILLED WITH SHRILL SCREAMS!

SCREECH! WARGHH

W-WHAT IS IT?

THAT FOOL! HE MUST HAVE ONLY WOUNDED THE MONSTER! AND THE SERUM IS STILL WORKING!

RUN! RUN!

THE MONSTER, THIRSTING FOR REVENGE FOR THE WOUNDS IT HAD SUFFERED LASHES OUT AT PROF. VARIG AND HIS ASSISTANT!

MY LEG!

AKKK GHH!

MEANWHILE, PAUL CAME TO, AND...

I AM YOUR UNCLE, PAUL! THE KEY... ON THE FLOOR... FELL OUT OF THE PROFESSOR'S POCKET!



UNCLE! LOOK OUT... THE MONSTER IS HEADED FOR YOU!



THE GRUESOME SAVAGERY OF THE MONSTER ATTACKING HIS UNCLE AND THE FIENDISH HOWLS OF THE OTHER BATTLING MONSTERS AS THEY BROKE FROM THEIR CAGES IN THE DARK RECESSES OF THE EVIL CASTLE...



...DROVE PAUL SCREAMING INTO THE DARKNESS... AND... **INSANITY!**



BUT THE LOSS OF BLOOD WAS TOO MUCH FOR PAUL! THE TOWNSFOLK FOUND HIM ON THE ROAD OF NO RETURN... **DEAD!**



the END

THE SPIRITS



THE HOUSE ON THE HILL WAS CURSED AND EVERYONE KNEW IT EXCEPT THE ARTIST WHO BOUGHT IT BECAUSE IT SEEMED LIKE AN EXCELLENT PLACE TO LIVE... THAT IS UNTIL **THEY** CAME...

I ALWAYS HEARD YOU CITY FELLAS WAS CRAZY, MISTER SWINTON... BUT YOU MUST BE REALLY DAFT TO MOVE INTO THE "OLD PLACE"! STRANGE THINGS HAPPEN THERE... IT'S ACCURSED!

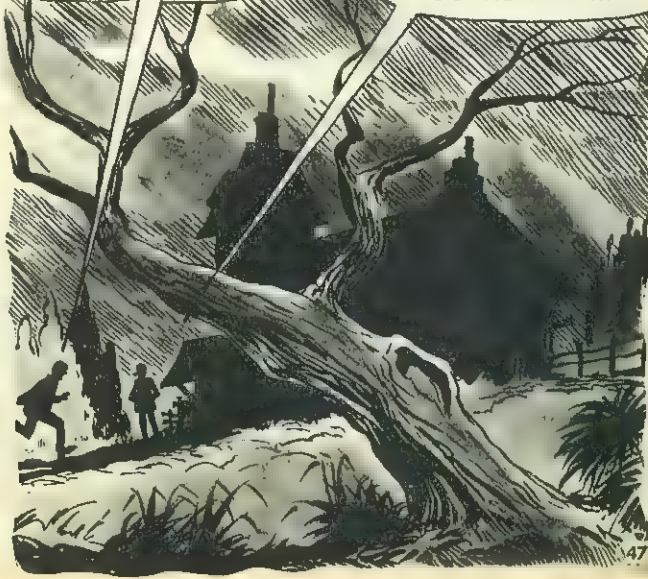
NONSENSE! IT'S A PERFECT PLACE FOR AN ARTIST TO WORK!



LATE THAT DAY... AS DUSK SETTLED OVER THE RAMBLING OLD HOUSE...

MISTER SWINTON!
MISTER SWINTON!

IT'S MAC DUFFY,
MY HIRED MAN!
WONDER WHAT'S
BOTHERING HIM?



WITCH STONES!
I FOUND A
PILE OF WITCH
STONES IN
THE WOODS!

WITCH STONES? YOU
MEAN THOSE OLD ALTARS
THAT PEOPLE SAY ARE
HAUNTED BY EVIL
SPIRITS? DON'T TELL
ME YOU'RE FALLING
FOR THAT STUFF,
TOO!



BUT MAC LEADS SWINTON TO THE WOODS...

SEE? THIS MEANS THE
WITCH MEN WILL BE
OUT TONIGHT! WE
BETTER GET OUT
OF HERE!

TAKE
IT
EASY,
MAC!

WONDER WHERE
THOSE STONES CAME
FROM? THEY WEREN'T
HERE WHEN I FIRST
LOOKED AT THIS PLACE...

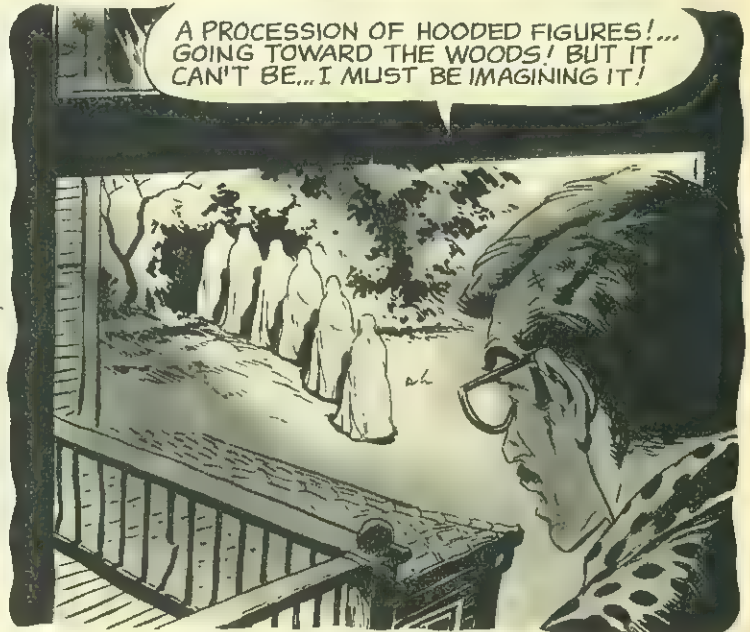


THAT NIGHT...

I WONDER
WHAT
AWAKENED
ME...

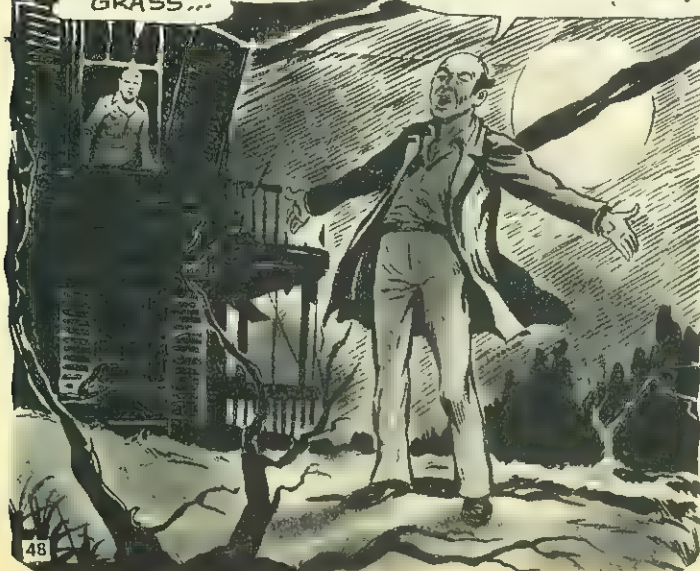


A PROCESSION OF HOODED FIGURES!...
GOING TOWARD THE WOODS! BUT IT
CAN'T BE... I MUST BE IMAGINING IT!

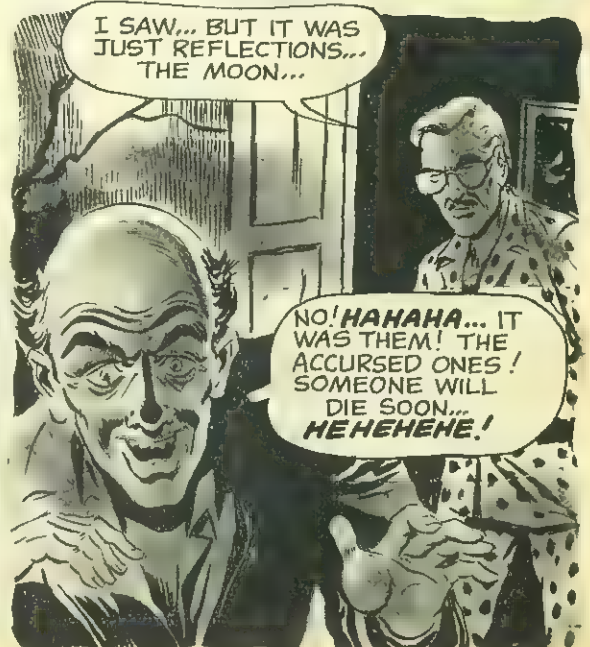


THEY'RE GONE! IT MUST
HAVE BEEN AN ILLUSION...
THE MOON ON THE
GRASS...

DID YOU SEE THEM?
DID YOU SEE THEM?
HAHAHAHAHAHA!



I SAW... BUT IT WAS
JUST REFLECTIONS...
THE MOON...



NO! **HAHAHA...** IT
WAS THEM! THE
ACCURSED ONES!
SOMEONE WILL
DIE SOON...
HEHEHEHE!

THE NEXT MORNING, MAC STILL BABBLING WILDLY IS LED AWAY...



POOR MAC! SUPERSTITION...AND A FEW MOONBEAMS ON THE GRASS DID THIS TO HIM! NOW I'M STUCK WITHOUT A HIRED MAN... BUT I'M NOT LEAVING THIS PLACE!

YOU LOOKING FOR A HIRED MAN, MR. SWINTON?



A VOICE BEHIND ME? THERE WAS NO ONE THERE A MOMENT AGO!

NAME'S PETER FALK, MISTER SWINTON... I ASK IF YOU WANT A HIRED MAN!



OH... YOU CAME UP BEHIND ME SO QUIETLY! I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU AROUND HERE BEFORE, FALK! YOU FAMILIAR WITH THIS SECTION?

YES... I'VE KNOWN THIS SECTION... A LONG TIME!



OKAY... YOU'RE HIRED!

IT ALMOST LOOKS LIKE THE GRASS IS WITHERED AWAY WHERE HE STOOD! WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH ME, ANYWAY? IF I DON'T WATCH IT THEY WILL BE TAKING ME AWAY!



THEN I'LL START WITH WHAT I HAVE TO DO!

A FEW DAYS LATER... AN OLD FRIEND ARRIVES FOR A VISIT...



HELLO, STEVE! HOW ARE YOU?

FINE... THIS IS QUITE A PLACE... BUT THE TAXI DRIVER DIDN'T SEEM EAGER TO TAKE ME HERE, THOUGH...

AFTER SUPPER THAT NIGHT...

THAT'S FUNNY! FALK IS
TAKING THE MIRROR OUT
OF THE LIVING ROOM!
I DIDN'T TELL HIM
TO DO THAT!

YOU KNOW,
THEY SAY THE
WALKING DEAD NEVER
CAST REFLECTIONS!
AFTER WHAT YOU'VE
BEEN TELLING ME, I
HALF BELIEVE THAT'S
WHY HE'S DOING
IT!



AFTERWARDS, STEVE AND DON WENT FOR A WALK...

...AND I HAVEN'T BEEN PAINTING WELL...
ALL THESE NIGHTMARE SHAPES... I
DON'T MEAN TO PAINT THEM...
THEY JUST SEEM TO
COME FROM MY
BRAIN...



STEVE! **STEVE!** WHERE ARE YOU?
WHA--? THAT **SCREAM**...FROM
NEAR THE PILE OF STONES!



THE HOODED
FIGURES!
THEY'VE GOT
STEVE...
NO...NO...

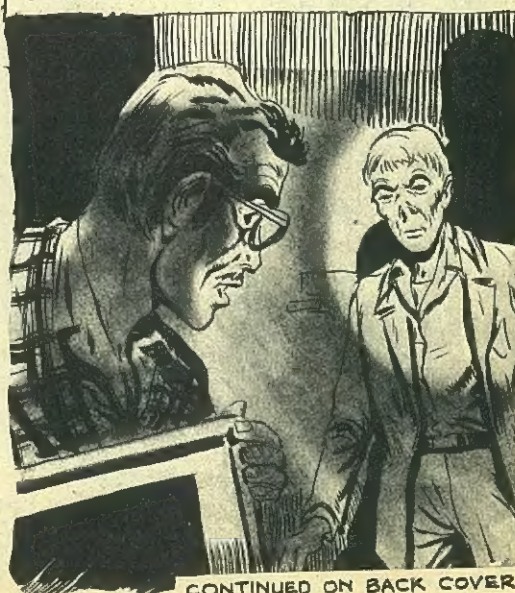


AS SWINTON RAN TOWARD THE SCENE, THE
STRANGE FIGURES DISAPPEARED!

STEVE! HE'S **DEAD!**
I'M GOING BACK TO THE
HOUSE! THE KEY TO
THIS **HORROR**
LIES THERE...



FRANTICALLY HURRYING TO THE HOUSE,
SWINTON SOUGHT OUT PETER FALK!



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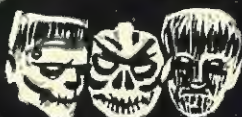
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HERE'S A MIRROR, FALK...
LOOK AT YOURSELF!
STEVE WAS RIGHT!
YOU CAST NO
REFLECTION!

TAKE
IT
AWAY!



THE...THE **WITCH MEN!**
AND YOU'RE ONE
OF THEM!

WE'LL HAVE YOUR **BLOOD...**
DOWN AT THE CAIRN
OF ROCKS...



THE SUN
IS COMING
UP...

THEN YOUR LIFE IS PROLONGED
ONE DAY! FOR WE KILL ONLY AT
NIGHT... THE WITCHMEN WALK
ONLY IN DARKNESS!



WITH THE COMING OF THE SUN, THE WEIRD
FIGURES DISAPPEARED! SWINTON WAS LEFT
ALONE... AND HE HURRIED TO THE TOOLSHED
NEAR THE OLD HOUSE...

LUCKY I HAD THIS
DYNAMITE FOR
BLOWING OUT STUMPS!
I'LL DESTROY THE
ROCK CAIRN AND THE
WITCHMEN WILL
BE DEFEATED!



AS THE PILE EXPLODED, SWINTON
SEEMED TO SEE A STRANGE
FIGURE RISING ABOVE THE
FLAME, AND HE HEARD A
SHRILL, KEENING SCREAM
AS OF UNWORLDLY AGONY!



A SKELETON... HOLDING A KNIFE...
LIKE THE ONE FALK HAD! I DON'T
THINK FALK WILL EVER COME
BACK... BUT IF HE EVER DOES,
I WON'T BE HERE!

